

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In the claims please make the following amendments:

I Claim:

1. (currently amended) An improved fishing hook, at least the penetrating tips and barbs of which are ~~made of~~ coated with a composition consisting essentially of titanium or an alloy ~~or of~~ titanium, the tip and barb of which are coated with titanium or a titanium alloy by the process of:

placing said tip and said barb within a vacuum chamber, said vacuum chamber having a cathode where said cathode has an evaporation surface material, said vacuum chamber further being in combination with a bias power supply;

positioning said fishhook with said vacuum chamber;

supplying a gas within said vacuum chamber so that said gas surrounds said tip and said barb;

starting an electrical arch within said vacuum chamber thereby producing a plasma comprising ionized species of said gas and ionized species of said cathode evaporation surface material;

adjusting said bias power supply to a bias potential to optimize coating of said tip and said barb.

2. (withdrawn)
3. (newly added) An improved fishing hook having a surface comprised essentially of titanium or an alloy of titanium made by the process of:
 - placing a fishhook within a vacuum chamber, said vacuum chamber having a cathode where said cathode has an evaporation surface material, said vacuum chamber further being in combination with a bias power supply;
 - positioning said fishhook with said vacuum chamber;
 - supplying a gas within said vacuum chamber so that said gas surrounds said fishhook;
 - starting an electrical arch within said vacuum chamber thereby producing a plasma comprising ionized species of said gas and ionized species of said cathode evaporation surface material;
 - adjusting said bias power supply to a bias potential to optimize coating of said fishhook.
4. An improved fishing hook having an outer surface comprised essentially of titanium or an alloy of titanium and an inner layer comprised of stainless steel.
5. An improved fishing hook having an outer surface comprised essentially of titanium or an alloy of titanium and an inner layer comprised of steel or steel alloy.

6. An improved fishing hook comprising an inner layer of steel or steel alloy, at least the penetrating tip and barb of which are coated with a composition consisting essentially of titanium or an alloy of titanium.

Applicant respectfully submits, that in view of the above, claims 1 & 3 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are hereby requested, and allowance of Claims 1 & 3 at an early date is solicited. If impediments to allowance of the claims remain and a telephone conference between the undersigned and the examiner would help remove such impediments in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert L. Greeson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Robert Greeson